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Edgerton, Alfred P. 1813-  
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Address of Hon. A. P.  
Edgerton



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ADDRESS

OF

Hon. A. P. Edgerton,

OF FORT WAYNE, IND.,

AT THE

ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

Williams, Defiance & Paulding Counties, O.,

Old Settlers' Association,

HELD AT

HICKSVILLE, DEFIANCE Co.,

SEPT. 11. 1878.

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HICKSVILLE, O. :

THOS. A. STARR, BOOK AND COMMERCIAL PRINTER.

1878.

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## ERRATA.

Page 26, line 4 from bottom, read Hicksopolis for "Hickabod."

Page 24, 3d line from bottom, read Edgerton & Trevitt.

TO all here, old and young, I extend the kindest greeting. By your efforts the wilderness once around us has been changed into productive and beautiful fields, happy homes, and flourishing towns. You were neither faltering, faithless, nor lazy, and did not therefore

"Write sorrow on the bosom of the earth."

We old settlers can testify that

"Sweet are the uses of adversity,"

for each around his cabin home,

" \* \* \* Exempt from public haunt,  
Found tongues in trees, books in the running brook,  
Sermons in stones, and good in everything;"

and honest work everywhere to do.

And this is an old settlers' meeting! There are more than old settlers here, yet I see many whose heads are gray, and whom age has bowed to the earth, but not in sorrow, for they have obtained the reward of honest labor in substantial success. They have taken their harness off and laid it aside, not boastingly, but hoping it may be so worn by those who follow them that, by like slow degrees of honest labor, they too may secure a like reward.

But let me say to the young,

"Let not him that girdeth on his harness boast himself as he that putteth it off."

It is only the earth—the land—that man can change by his labor. The sky, with its myriads of eternal worlds, is beyond his reach, and its mysteries cannot be penetrated by his knowledge. He only knows it is there. The ocean, limitless and sublime, rolls on, and wrecks and buries man's proudest work beneath it. But the earth is subject to his control, and from it he obtains the blessings of life

and home. All over its face, in every variety of climate, man has his abiding place, and by God's wisdom is adapted to its vicissitudes. While not a particle can be destroyed, every day brings its change, and the earth goes on with the years, changing and renewing itself; but man, unlike it, stops and yields to that decay which brings to him the final change, and he goes to his rest in that world from whence he came. Here the land is indeed changed, but where are all the men who produced the change?

On this day of our annual gathering together, let us drop a tear of kindly remembrance to those who have chopped and logged, and cleared, and sown, and reaped their way in honest toil to the better land. We know who have gone before. We miss them to-day. We have missed them in the years gone by. Within the cabins of those our friends in the early days of our settlement here, we have felt the grasp of the warm hand of manly friendship, and the wife's kindly welcome never withheld; and we have shared their scanty meal and divided with their children the narrow bed. And at the early morning parting we have gone forth, conscious that he who had the courage to encounter a wilderness, and the hope to evolve from it by his own labor a home of comfort, would scorn to stain his manhood by turning a weary traveler from his door, or by withholding sympathy and aid in sickness, want and distress. In those days neither hearts nor doors were barred or bolted. The latch-string of every cabin was always out, and, when pulled in want, reached every heart within it.

As an instance that a traveler was never turned away, I will state that, in June, 1838, Hugh McCulloch, since Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, and I slept in the hay in the log barn of Gavin W. Hamilton, then living on the Maumee River, to make room for an expected new comer, while Mrs. McCulloch remained in the house to welcome it. That new comer is now an excellent lady, active in all charities, and the wife of A. H. Bittenger, Esq., a lawyer at Fort Wayne. She settled in the country at an early age, and I was one of her first acquaintances.

I see many here who, though young in years, are yet old settlers. It is their duty to see that nothing stagnates around them. If they do not improve upon our work, and make their country grow better and richer when we are gone, they are unworthy of our parental care and labor, and should not be inheritors of what they will not improve, and cannot, therefore, save.

There is education in these days for every work except farm work, the most necessary and the most honorable of all, and for that rea-

son in every other kind of business there is an over-supply of labor. Lands are uncultivated, farms deserted by farmers' sons, the towns filled with idlers, and the country filled with tramps.

It is difficult on such an occasion as this to know exactly what to say. If I give accounts of persons only, to those who are not mentioned and their friends it may seem like neglect. If I deal only in historical or statistical facts and in events, without reference to persons, the most interesting part of the early settlement is left out and lost. If, however, I can mingle them together and blend details of facts and personal reminiscences, something surely will be said satisfactory to all.

As there is something here older than the oldest settler, which will remain when all the present owners have passed away—the lands on which we stand and all around us, I believe I will be pardoned if I refer briefly to the history of the titles.

An important part of the history of Ohio is that of land titles; and although we of the northwest part have a very direct title, not at all complicated with private or corporate grants, yet a better knowledge than I believe is generally possessed, is certainly desirable. Many talk of Ranges, Townships, and Sections, without ever enquiring what they really are, and content themselves with the fact that they own what they possess and enjoy, and remain unable to give, when asked, an intelligent answer as to the origin of the subdivisions of our lands and of the titles thereto.

How many can tell why this is Township four North, Range one East? North of what? East of what? Or why lands in the North part of Williams County are in Towns Nine and Ten South, and Ranges 1, 2, 3, and 4 West? Every man who has a deed of his farm, has it described as in a township, range, and section. Why such a description is essential, he cannot tell. He does not know that a civil and land township are not always alike. Latin, algebra and astronomy and philosophy are taught in the public schools, but things quite as useful are often neglected, as correct spelling, English grammar, and land subdivisions, forsooth.

It was conceded, and it was an unfortunate concession in my opinion, that the aboriginal Indian tribes held a title to the land in this country, which had to be extinguished before the general government could become possessed of an honest disposable title. I believe the right to cultivate by a willing people is superior to the claim to possess for the sole purpose of wandering and warring over any country.

When Ohio was admitted into the Federal Union, one of the

terms of admission was that the fee simple to all the lands within its limits, excepting those previously granted or sold, should be vested in the United States. Large portions had, however, at different periods, been granted or sold to individuals, companies, or bodies politic, among which were The Virginia Military Lands, Western Reserve lands, Ohio Company's purchase, Refugee lands, French grants, Symmes' purchase, and many other grants not now important to consider. Virginia's and Connecticut's claims are the most interesting to us. There were various conflicts of title by the Colonies arising from conflicting grants from the Kings of England, several claiming under these grants from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans, or the South Sea.

Virginia claimed that under her charter from James the First, in the year 1609, she owned all the continent west of the Ohio River of an equal breadth, North and South, of the Colony of Virginia.

Some of the Colonies refused to ratify the articles of confederation because of these conflicting claims. Maryland was active in her opposition and took the most decided stand. She proposed on the 22d of June, 1778, and afterwards insisted, that the boundaries of each of the States, as claimed to extend to the Mississippi River or the South Sea, should be ascertained and restricted, and that the property in the soil of the Western Territories should be held for the common benefit of all the States. Virginia remonstrated and Maryland refused to accede to the articles of confederation until February 7th, 1781. Delaware signed the articles but declared that it was necessary for the peace and safety of the States to be included in the Union, that a moderate extent of limits should be assigned for such of the States as claimed to the Mississippi or South Sea; and that Congress ought to have power to fix their Western limits, and that the lands should be a common estate to be granted and held for the benefit of all the States.

On the 6th September, 1780, Congress passed a resolution earnestly recommending to those States who had claims to the Western Country to pass such laws as would effectually remove the only obstacle to the final ratification of the articles of confederation—the cession of the lands to the United States. Virginia ceded her lands, March 1st, 1784, being the territory northwest of the Ohio River; and the States of Massachusetts, Connecticut, North and South Carolina, and Georgia soon followed. The government of the territory thus acquired by the United States was left to Congress, and, as a Territorial dependency, was governed by it until

States were formed therefrom. The territory ceded by Virginia, being the territory northwest of the Ohio River, was governed by the Ordinance of July 13th, 1787.

If you have followed me attentively you will see why you, and the people of Ohio, had to buy their lands of the general government or other grantees; and why Ohio settlers and toilers could not have a free title to the lands they were willing to possess and improve, instead of paying their money to non-resident grantees or to the government. It was because the lands were granted to the general government to be disposed of for the common benefit of all the States. The general government was a trustee only.

It is in the Virginia cession of the northwest territory that we are specially interested. She reserved certain lands to satisfy the claims of her State troops employed in the continental line during the Revolutionary war. These are the "Virginia Military Lands," between the Sciota and Miami Rivers. They were never surveyed into townships or into any regular form, and the consequence was that the irregularities in the various locations under Virginia Military Land warrants made conflicts of title unavoidable, and the expenses of litigation very great. I refer to this grant particularly to show the difference in the surveys, and why our subdivisions are the best.

The Connecticut Western Reserve was another important grant or reservation. How many now here, who were born or have lived on the "Western Reserve," know what is meant by it? Connecticut claimed this land under a grant of Charles Second, who, in 1662, granted to the then colony of Connecticut all the lands between the 41st and 42d parallels of north latitude, from Providence Plantations on the east to the Pacific Ocean on the west, with the exception of the New York and Pennsylvania Colonies. The result of this grant was a conflict between these colonies and Connecticut, which was finally compromised by the United States relinquishing to the State of Connecticut 3,800,000 acres of land in the Territory of Ohio. This tract of land became known thereafter as the Connecticut Western Reserve, and was divided into townships of five miles square; the southern boundary being the 41st degree of north latitude, and the northern boundary Lake Erie or the territorial line. Keep the 41st degree north latitude in your minds. The townships were numbered north from the southern boundary, and the ranges west from the Pennsylvania line. The Fire Lands in the Western Reserve were a grant from Connecticut to certain sufferers by fire occasioned by the English during

the Revolution. As the other grants in Ohio do not affect us particularly, it is unnecessary to give their history.

The Ordinance of 1787, for the government of the territory ceded by Virginia, contained not only the details of a territorial government, but declared certain principles of enduring value and importance to every people. It was passed "for the purpose of extending," as it declared, "the fundamental principles of civil and religious liberty, which form the basis whereon these republics, their laws and constitutions, are erected, and to fix and establish those principles as the basis of all laws, constitutions and governments which forever hereafter shall be formed in said territory."

When we talk of religious liberty, civil liberty, trial by jury, habeas corpus, schools and education, perpetuity of the union, universal freedom (neither slavery nor involuntary servitude), we will find these things guaranteed to us by this ordinance. A tree stands or falls by a fixed law. Governments stand or fall by fixed laws. If the fundamental principles of this ordinance are maintained in their integrity, are not sacrificed to any heresies or doctrines of expediency, we will continue a free, virtuous, improving people, and our form of government by the people will become the established form for all nations, and christianity be the religion, and freedom the law everywhere.

If you have a valued tree which you wish to stand, and a man tells you he can make it better by building a fire at its roots, you will call him a knave or a fool, and will keep him away from it. If a politician tells you he can make your government better than the fathers made it, he too is a knave or a fool.—Keep him away from it. Understand and know for yourselves the principles of your government, and you will keep the knaves and fools from tinkering with it.

This ordinance also provided that there should be three and not more than five States formed out of this Territory, and that the boundary between the middle State, Indiana, and the eastern State, Ohio, should be a line drawn due north from the mouth of the Great Miami River to the line between the United States and Canada.

We now connect all that has been said with our land surveys of the Congress lands in the State of Ohio. This line fixed by the ordinance of 1787 being the boundary between Indiana and Ohio, was and is the first principal meridian of our survey.

We call our lands Congress lands because there is no intervening title between the purchaser and the general government.

We buy direct from the government, in accordance with the laws of Congress from time to time made, and from the officers of the government.

The State lands we buy from the State, as the grantee of the general government. Why all the lands were not granted was because of the restrictions in the deeds of cession to the general government. Grants to States were by alternate sections, with a doubled price for the reserved ones, for Congress could not *rightfully* give away the public lands, because they were held by it for the common benefit of all the States, and not alone for the State in which they were situated.

In Northwestern Ohio the government surveys are made from the Indiana line east to the line of the Western Reserve, and south to the Greenville Treaty line. The base line of this survey is the 41st degree of north latitude, as it is also, as I have stated, the south line of the Connecticut Western Reserve. The plan of survey of these lands originated with Jared Mansfield, Surveyor General of the United States, and is certainly the best that could possibly have been devised. From a base line, established by law, the *townships* are numbered north and south, and, from a meridian, east or west; with us *east*, because east of the Indiana line, our meridian. The country is thus surveyed into squares of six miles each, called townships. Each township is subdivided into 36 sections, parallel with the township lines, of one mile square each, containing 640 acres, so that every regular land township contains 23,040 acres of land. Each section can be legally subdivided into quarter sections of 160 acres; and each quarter section into quarters of 40 acres; and each 40 acres, for convenience of sale, can be divided into quarters also of ten acres, so that an exact and legally correct description of ten acres of land out of a whole section can be made without a survey, and the lines afterwards be exactly determined by any competent surveyor.

We are now in Section 21, Township 4 north, Range 1 east. 4 north, because the fourth township north of the 41st degree of north latitude, and range 1 east, because it is the first range of townships east of the meridian, the Indiana line. The north line section 21, here at the Railroad Depot, is just 21 miles north of the 41st degree north latitude. Any one owning a farm within the limits of our Congressional Survey, can tell its latitude if he can tell its description. Our Indiana neighbors, because their base line is in the south part of the State, and their meridian near the center, have their townships numbered 32, 33 and 34 north, and their

range 15 east. In Williams County, north of the old Fulton line, the townships number 9 and 10 south of a Michigan base line, and ranges west of a Michigan meridian.

In every Congressional land township a section of land was set apart for school purposes, but Congress did not give this land to the Township or State. It had no right to do so; but as an equivalent for the grant it required the State to agree that she would not tax the public lands sold by the general government, until five years after their entry by the purchaser. The States in which there were no public lands insisted on all the benefits to them, which could accrue from any disposition of these lands.

Usually Section 16 was the school section.

A Congressional Township, like Town four North, Range one East, is a land Township, not necessarily a civil Township. The one is designated by the public surveys, the other by State authorities, as our County Commissioners. They determine what shall be a civil township in their respective Counties; as in this County, Noble Township and Defiance Township are civil, not congressional or land Townships. All other Townships in our County are land and civil townships alike. In Fulton County there is not a civil township that is a congressional land township. German, the southwest township, has three sections numbered twelve, and Clinton and Swan Creek have each two twelves and two sevens, making incorrect descriptions in deeds and the County records very easy. If a deed for a farm in Hicksville Township described the land as the northwest quarter of Section 12, it would be a sufficient deed; but if a like part of Section 12 in German Township, Fulton County, were conveyed, the deed would be insufficient. The township and range should be named, for there are two twelves in that township. In all cases the land township and range should be stated. Williams County has civil and land townships unlike.

As the County Commissioners of the several counties have no official communication with each other on such subjects, and do not know the names of pre-existing townships in other counties, the same names of townships are found in almost every county of the State. The Washingtons, Jeffersons, Madisons, prevailing.

Having gotten the northwestern part of Ohio surveyed according to law, let us examine into its civil organization.

The northwestern counties of Ohio were created and named by an act of the General Assembly passed February 12th, 1820, and were called Allen, Putnam, Henry, Williams, Paulding, Van Wert, and Mercer; and under these names they were to be organized in-

to separate counties whenever sufficiently peopled. Williams, Paulding and Van Wert were named after the three captors of Major Andre, who was hung as a spy during the Revolutionary war.

Williams County was organized February 22d, 1824, and the Counties of Putnam, Henry and Paulding were attached to it for judicial purposes, and Defiance made the County seat, "until otherwise provided by law." In 1820, the town of Defiance contained three stores and 100 inhabitants. Ten years afterwards, 1830, Williams County, which then included the three adjoining counties unorganized, contained 1039 inhabitants and seven civil townships; Crane in Paulding County, Damascus in Henry County, Jennings and Perry in Putnam County, and Defiance, Delaware and Richland in Williams County. These townships were along the Maumee and Auglaize Rivers. The Township of Defiance had 307 inhabitants.

The surveys of the public lands under United States authority, were made in 1820 to 1826. The Piqua Land District, at which most of our congress lands were entered, extended North and South from the Greenville Treaty Line to the Old Fulton Line between Ohio and Michigan; and East to include the eight ranges east from the Indiana line.

Isolated pieces along the rivers were entered previous to 1834, but not until the years 1835-6 and 7, were the great bodies of the land in Northwestern Ohio entered. The entries made in those years by actual settlers were in small quantities; but entries were made by speculators in large quantities throughout the district, and of State as well as United States lands.

By some law, which seems to be inexorable in its results everywhere, farming lands bought in large quantities for the purposes of speculation, never prove a speculation, but are almost invariably sold in large bodies at an actual loss.

I am now working my way down to our time as actual settlers—the interesting time to us.

The Hicks Land Company, so called, the American Land Company, Columbus and other Ohio parties, and smaller eastern speculators were large purchasers of the public lands in Ohio during the years mentioned. All these purchases were made for a speculation through an expected sale before the lands became taxable, which was five years from the time of entry. It was believed that the country would so rapidly settle up that sales could be made of large quantities at large profits within the five years.

All of the lands of the Hicks Land Company, so called, were

entered in 1835-36, in the names of Henry W. Hicks and Isaac S. Smith; Mr. Hicks being of the firm of Samuel Hicks & Sons, Shipping Merchants, 80 South Street, New York, and Mr. Smith being of the firm of Smith & Macy, Isaac S. Smith & John B. Macy, Steamboat Owners and large Forwarding and Commission Merchants, of Buffalo, N. Y. Smith afterwards conveyed all his interest to Henry W. Hicks, and from him direct, or through me as a purchaser from him, all the titles of purchasers of the Hicks lands have been derived.

Having entered so large a body of land, the owners determined to make such improvements upon them as would secure, in their opinion, a rapid sale at remunerating or profitable prices.

John A. Bryan, of Columbus, O., then Auditor of State, had been agent in selecting these lands, and to him was assigned the duty of commencing operations at Hicksville, a town to be laid out, and thus called after the Hicks. He engaged Ephraim Burwell, of Columbus, May 20, 1836, who came here shortly thereafter "to start the business." The selection of Mr. Burwell was not fortunate, as a large loss was sustained through his management. The liberality of the company and their honorable purposes were unquestioned.

They made an effort deserving success financially, and one which was greatly to the benefit of every interest in the surrounding country. The first thing to be done by the agent sent here (Burwell) was to start a town, and to make a road into the township. There was not a road running north from the Maumee River between Bull Rapids and Defiance, thirty miles. Isaac Hall underbrushed a road from the river up the State line, over which he moved that year to where he now lives, on the Fort Wayne Road.

Burwell was directed "to be cautious in the selection of a town site." It was to be "fixed in the most profitable place to the owners, and in the midst of the most valuable timber." The site for the original plat of Hicksville was fixed upon by Burwell, and the survey made by Miller Arrowsmith, then, as now, the most competent man for his work in the country.

I hope he will live to survey a road for himself to heaven, provided he improves it better than he does his broad uncultivated acres. If a man owns so much land on which to be buried, he may not be found at the resurrection, and then, on awakening, he may exclaim, "Resurrection is over, and I'm forgot!"

Arrowsmith, if thus found, would say, "Let's take a back sight, and get out." He will not be lost *here* nor *there*.

On the 3d Sept., 1836, Arrowsmith reported that he had made the survey and plat, and had sent it to Mr. Bryan to name the streets and number the lots, which was done, and the plat recorded, and the town remained as thus surveyed until 1841, when all except the lots on High and Main Streets were vacated. The notice of the vacation had to be published in the *Maumee River Times*, Maumee City, as there was no paper at that time at Defiance. The town located, a road to it was a necessity. Accordingly a survey was made by Amzi D. Meese, of a road from the Maumee River to the Indiana line, in the direction of Newville. This road is now called the "Old Clemmer Road" and the "Newville Road." It was a part of a State road from Fort Brown, on the Auglaize River, to the Indiana line. The road was at once chopped out the full width of sixty feet for about a mile and a half from the river, and partially chopped the remainder of the way to Hicksville. The cost was \$488.93, and paid by the company. John Clemmer and Luther Loveland, now residing here, are the only known survivors of the twenty-eight men who did the work in the summer of 1836. All the others have passed over another road to the better land.

After Burwell had spent \$12,439.45 in making the Clemmer Road, and making some attempts at clearing, putting up three log cabins, and getting a saw mill in running condition, without any sales of lands or lots, the proprietors concluded to reorganize their adventure. Accordingly, in April, 1837, I came out from the city of New York, where I had been employed in a counting-house in which the Hickses were interested, to take charge of the property, not only for the Hicks Land Company but for the American Land Company. I received a salary of \$1000 per annum from the Hicks Company and a commission from the other company.

It is unnecessary to say that I was then a young man, and not much of a "forest ranger." I became one, however, after being frightened by an owl from a deer-lick. It was a good lesson, for since then I have let the world and everything in it make all the noise they pleased, conscious that noisemakers are harmless, in the woods, on the stump, in congress, in the pulpit, or anywhere.

I traveled from New York to Washington, and returned to Baltimore, thence by railroad to Frederic, by stage to Wheeling and Columbus, and then to Sandusky City, and by steamer to Toledo, and from there I attempted to reach Defiance by wagon, but concluded, on reaching Providence, at the "head of the Rapids," that on foot from there to Defiance was the better way, and adopted it, having Allen Braucher, familiarly called "Tige," whom I fortu-

nately met, then a stranger, for company. He was a fur buyer, and I ever afterwards esteemed him as a true friend. He died years ago.

At Defiance I met Calvin L. Noble, now Probate Judge of Paulding County, who promised to be here with his wife; and from that time to this our friendship has continued unchanged in all its confidences. He was a "coon skin buyer," one of the then much needed missionaries who distributed tea, coffee, calico, cotton, cloth, and tobacco money to the suffering in exchange for furs.

Suppose I describe a "coon skin buyer," that the younger settlers may know what he was. I will describe his horse first, as the most important part of him. He was, perhaps, like the horse Shakespeare pictured for Adonis, but I'll not put Noble on as an Adonis attachment, whatever may have been the opinion of the Pottawatamie Venuses. The horse was "round-hoofed, short-jointed, broad breast, full eye, small head, wide nostril, high crest, short ears, straight legs, and passing strong, thin mane, thick tail, broad buttock, and tender hide." There's a horse for you, "in shape, courage, pace and bone." Well, Noble didn't have any such kind of a horse, but he tried to get one, but always failed. When he was mounted on the horse he did have, he had a good saddle, with a horn. In those days the other horns were not carried on a saddle, but generally encased in glass, in a side pocket. He sat up straight, rode easily for himself and his horse, used short stirrups, foot about level, or toe a little higher than the heel, and the foot parallel with the horse's side, so that the point of the toe could be seen when looking over the knees as he sat erect. Knees were kept close to the side of the saddle. When thus seated he looked well, and was secure in his seat. The winter was his time of travel. He wore a thick beaver overcoat, with numerous pockets, fur cap pulled down over the ears, always good gloves, good breeches, especially in the riding part, green leggings, sometimes with buttons, but generally tied around with green or red worsted binding, good boots, had a smiling face and a merry twinkle in his eye, and a tongue!—well, that was ever the winning weapon—a manly courage, and the audacity of the devil. They were all alike in these respects, Noble, Blinn, or any other coon skin buyer. A prime skin, white pelt, dark fur, ears as soft as Lyons velvet, square Indian dressed, made his heart glad, and when met, with his horse covered over and loaded down with such skins, his bottle was always empty, and he felt as if he could ride into the centre of a great Leipsic fair, and take the highest prices! At Leipsic, in Ger-

many, an annual fair was held, and was the place where all the prime skins were taken.

From Defiance, after two days' rest, I started again on foot for Andrew Clemmers', at the mouth of the Marie DeLorme, but getting lame, tried to get a horse from Gavin W. Hamilton, to whom I have referred, but he wouldn't let him go, because he was afraid I wouldn't send him back. I was a tramp! and not to be believed.

George Platter, a little further on the way, wasn't so suspicious, and agreed to let me have a horse provided I would let a boy ride behind to bring the horse back. This done, I reached Clemmers', and the next day, on horseback, found Hicksville, April 17th.

I found here a double log cabin in the middle and at the crossing of Main and High streets, where Ransom Osborn kept boarders. A log cabin occupied by Buenos Ayres, in which I took my first meal in Hicksville, on lot 143, where Stull's store now is. A cabin occupied by Ephraim Burwell on lot 139, where Doctor Rakestran's house stands. A cabin occupied by Robert Bowles on lot 202, back of St. Paul's Church. A shanty on lot 200 where Doctor Bracy's house stands, and a shanty occupied as a store on lot 216, near the corner where my office is; and a log blacksmith-shop where Ben Davis' house stands on lot 17, Auditor's Plat. The saw mill was raised on lot 18, Auditor's Plat, on the ground now occupied by John A. Miller's house, and had been running. There were neither provisions nor money here and nothing but woods and debts everywhere around.

But earthly things are made even in some way, and I found in Mrs. Osborn, who kept the "Boarding House," the best of all cooks and the neatest of all housekeepers. The life of Methusaleh would have been insufficient to have enabled a man to have eaten his allotted peck of dirt in that old cabin. If cleanliness be next to godliness, there was an abounding godliness in everything eaten in that house in those days. I lived there and I know of what I speak.

I found also the white ash tree, sawed down, in front of lot 208, near St. Paul's Church, with its stump scooped out, wherein Mrs. Osborn with spring pole pestle pounded corn for hominy to feed her hungry boarders. How clean, and white, and sweet that hominy was! Blessed, I say, be youth and hunger and water and sleep! I found all here.

I also found here Hinkle and Parker, whom afterwards I trusted as I trusted few others. They were industrious, truthful and dis-

creet. Parker is dead, and of him I will speak hereafter. Hinkle is here, and to his face I say it that of such men as he God makes the salt wherewith he saves the earth. He never deceived a friend nor betrayed a trust. Such men are needed everywhere to-day, as then, and if young men would now so live and act as to invite trust and confidence none would remain idle.

The first birth in the township was a boy, the child of Buenos and Sarah Ann Ayres, in 1837. It lived about seven months. The first death was in 1836, a child (not born here) of Samuel C. Arnold, who married a daughter of Mr. Osborn. It was buried in the old graveyard, where the Hicksville Flouring Mills of T. W. Kerr & Co. now stand. The first girl born in the township was Anne Josephine O'Connor, daughter of Joseph M. and Margaret O'Connor. She was born in 1838, in a board kiln, which had been fitted up for temporary family use. It stood in front of where John Clay now lives, on lots 181 to 184. In those days one was fortunate to have any place indoors in which to be born. As we are born without our knowledge or consent, we cannot very well fix the places.

I commenced at once the erection of new mills, and completed them in 1838-9, at a cost of \$20,323.00, and run them until the 10th December, 1840, when they were burned. This was a great loss to the country around as well as to the owners of the mills.

#### SALES OF LAND.

The first piece of land sold in the township was sold April 23d, 1837, to Buenos Ayres, being the 100 acres in Section 15, where John Clemmer now lives. The next piece was in Section 7 to Luther Loveland, June 27th, 1837, and is the farm on which he lived for nearly forty years, and which he sold in 1877. Then July 1st, Edward Wood bought the 40 acres where Hattery lives, in northeast quarter Section 21, and put up on it in 1839 the first cabin in the township off the Town Plat. It was raised on Sunday because all the men in the township were working by the day or month and couldn't afford the time to raise it on any other day. August 14th, 1837, James Thomas bought the 100 acres in Section 18, where Harrison Shaw lives, and Ransom Osborn bought the 100 acres where George Norrick lives, in Section 17.

All these lands were sold at \$5 per acre, part down and part on time. No lots in the town were sold that year, nor any other lands within this township nor from the great body of the lands of Hicks

& Co. and the American Land Company, together over 100,000 acres.

Williams County, then including Defiance County, and the adjoining counties in Ohio and Indiana, were gradually filling up by actual settlers moving on to the lands they had entered in 1835-6, and the movers' covered wagons were seen everywhere, and the strong blows of the axe in felling trees to make roads and cabins resounded through the forests, and the curling smoke from the fires in newly-made homes, and from burning clearings, was the smoke-like incense from homes and altars around which were gathered religion with all its trusts, courage with its manly front, the wife's and mother's love, thoughtful, confiding and hopeful—she who kept her soul for God and her honor for her husband.

From out these movers' wagons, and from around these cabin homes, have come the good and the true men and women who have made this wilderness to blossom like the rose. And this was indeed a wilderness—grand, beautiful, and majestic in its beauty! In the calm, echoing its bird songs and every footfall of the wanderer through it; waving gently and singing in the summer wind; moaning in the autumn storm, and howling in the winter blasts. Into this wilderness the movers came, and the land wears the smile of culture, civilization, and peace.

During all the year 1838 I sold no lots nor lands anywhere. Although building and paying out large amounts of money, no one was willing to buy land of me. Many of those employed were the owners of small tracts of land, which they were seeking to improve, and many had families to support, and a little money was a necessity to them. Land was everywhere cheap; too cheap to sell. The speculations in 1836 were land speculations—no railroad or fancy stocks, nor wheat corners then—and when the financial crash of 1837 came, down went real estate everywhere, and fortunes with it. Speculators' lands were in the market at less than the government price of \$1.25 per acre. Section 11 in this township, where Lash, Edson and Babbage now have fine farms, was sold for \$1 per acre by an eastern man, who had entered it with large quantities in other counties.

During the year 1838, more roads were necessary, and our friend Arrowsmith was found equal to any emergency, and in that year surveyed a road from New Harrison, on the Maumee River, at the State line. (The river is there yet, but New Harrison was a speculation, and time washed it away. Efforts were made by the State of Indiana to terminate her canal at the State line, and there to

construct locks to lock down into the Maumee River. Ohio would not accept such a location and termination, and New Harrison, the expected large town of Indiana at the eastern end of her canal, became no town at all.) The road ran north on the Indiana line to the corners of Allen and DeKalb counties, in Indiana, and from thence north-easterly through Hicksville to Lost Creek, Farmer and Evansport. This is now our Fort Wayne and Bryan road, running through High Street in Hicksville.

The historian must be true to facts, and I will here state that I never believed that the angles in that road between the creek at Lash's and Lost Creek were occasioned by one leg of Arrowsmith's buckskin trousers getting wet, and drying on him so tightly that he couldn't step quite so far with that leg, and consequently, unconsciously, walked in a circle, in correcting which he swung around the other way, and made the bends in the road. Now my experience with him was, that when he got his eye on a sight tree, it mattered not how far away, no buckskin breeches nor any other kind of a tight thing could get his eye off it. I won't swear to it, but there's Hinkle and Nat. Crary, who probably will swear that they have seen Arrowsmith jerked twenty feet high by a grape vine and never lose his sight. But I've seen a fellow dropped down low with grape juice or corn juice, who lost his sight for several hours. I'll swear to that.

The two roads crossing each other at Main and High Streets, being the Clemmer and Newville and the Fort Wayne and Bryan roads, were the only roads surveyed in the township until 1840.

In 1839 there were only six land sales made—120 acres in sec. 14, May 13, to Stephen Hinkle, being the Elliott farm now; 80 acres in sec. 17, to Amzi D. Meese, being the Widow Shaw farm; and 80 acres to William H. Slater, in sec. 18, now a part of the Hemery farm. I also sold to Jonathan C. Bayes and James Cornell 240 acres in sec. 23, Clinton Township, Fulton County. On this land is now in part the town plat of the town of Wauseon, on the Air Line Railroad. There was neither canal nor railroad thought of anywhere near that part of the country then.

This sale was an evidence that profitable land speculations in towns and cities are never intentional, always accidental. Lands bought and intended for towns and cities usually turn to farms or waste commons. It is true that locations sometimes make towns, but it is oftener true that enterprising men make the flourishing towns despite all the disadvantages of location. Fort Wayne is a

better rown than Defiance, because it had more enterprising men in it. It possessed no superior advantages of location.

In 1838, the nearest settlers to Hicksville were Isaac Hall and the Palmers, on the Fort Wayne Road, about five miles distant; Frazier Bartlett and Daniel Strong, on the St. Joseph River, near where Newville now is; Arrowsmith and the Wartenbees, on Lost Creek; and Ezra Crary and his family on N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  sec. 35, in Milford Township, the father of our friend here, the Rev. Nathaniel Crary; and the settlers on the Maumee River bottom lands, Andrew Clemmer being the nearest.

The oldest settler in the county, now living, is believed to be Mary Hively, now the wife of John Ruth. She came to this county in 1817. Then Montgomery Evans, who lived on the Maumee at Delaware town, above Defiance, and John Perkins, who lived at Brunersburgh, and who built the mill there, were among the few white settlers. Mrs. Ruth and her husband are here to-day. Her brother, John Hively, who is also here, came into the county in 1821.

There was no one living in the township off the town plat. The first settler on the Bryan road was Buenos Ayres, on sec. 15, now the John Clemmer farm, and the next David Grier, on sec. 1, where his widow now lives. He bought his land in 1840. Loveland and James Thomas were the first settlers on the Newville Road, and the next Lewis Michalls, in 1840. William Allen commenced the first clearing on the Fort Wayne Road, and William Hollinger and Mark W. Babb followed. They bought their land Oct. 11, 1842. On the Edgerton Road, Joshua Hall was the first settler. He bought in N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 8, Nov. 25, 1840, and settled there soon thereafter. On the Spencerville Road, William H. Slator built the first cabin in 1840, and Amzi D. Meese followed.

Slator was an Irishman, the heir to an entailed estate in the County Longford, Ireland, with £5,000 per annum rental. He went there on the death of his father and took possession of the estate and died, leaving his oldest son, who was born in this old log cabin in Hicksville, as his heir, and who now holds the property. This son's grandmother was Mrs. Dillon who died here very poor to the shame of her grandson, who was fully advised of her necessities. The proofs of the marriage of Mr. Slator and Margaret Dillon, and of the birth of this son, were furnished by me to the persons interested in Ireland.

As Hicksville was a town and had roads to it, a post office at this time became necessary. There was a mail route along the

south side of the Maumee River, being the route from Toledo to Fort Wayne, on which the mail was carried, and the nearest post office on it to Hicksville was at Cranesville, Paulding County, (New Rochester the town.) Time has washed away that town also. The law permitted the establishment of post offices and of special routes to supply them if the mail could be carried thereon, for the receipts of the special office. A route was therefore secured from Cranesville to Hicksville, eleven miles, the mail to be carried once in two weeks. I was appointed Post Master at Hicksville.

A contract was made September 29th, 1838, with David Landis to carry the mail once in two weeks, afterwards changed to a weekly and finally to a semi-weekly mail. Maria Landis, now the widow of Solomon DeLong, and Ransom Osborn were the witnesses to the contract. John Landis was the first mail carrier and afterwards his brother Absalom Landis, then a little short-legged stubby boy, whom I used to pick up and throw on the horse. Once there he was safe enough over any road. He was afterwards a respected and successful farmer here, and now dead. John lives on the Maumee River in good circumstances and respected. The Post Master at Cranesville was then Nathaniel L. Thomas, "Ladd Thomas," familiarly called; the same Ladd Thomas who afterwards moved to Newville, DeKalb County, Indiana, and became the President of John Hough's Bank of Newville, under the Indiana Wildcat Banking Law, and who, it is said, carried the specie basis of the Bank in a \$20 gold piece sewed up in the seat of his buckskin trousers. There were various and devious ways of banking then. No light man could move that deposit if Ladd Thomas sat on it.

That was the same Indiana banking law under which Columbus Delano, once Secretary of the Interior, Charles T. Sherman, (brother to John, now Secretary of the Treasury, and the General,) who was Judge of the United States District Court at Cleveland, and resigned because impeachment hung like a sword by a single hair over his head; and Ozias Bowen, once President Judge of this Circuit, and William Sturgis, of financial notoriety in Cincinnati and Chicago, made an agreement to establish Banks throughout Indiana to make money out of their circulation: the Central Bank to be at Indianapolis with local absorbents of other people's money in different parts of the State. It was said that the State Treasury of Ohio was to have furnished the money, but I don't believe it did, for there was no money in the whole concern, and it went its way through disaster to nothingness and contempt; like the law which authorized it.

It is said that things equal to the same thing are equal to one another, but Ladd Thomas was not the equal of these fancy bankers, for he didn't absorb anything that wasn't his own, and his bank didn't fail. As tavern keeper, post master, banker, merchant, preacher, he lived an honest life, smoked out his pipe in peace, (he was always at it,) and has gone to the reward given to sincere and honest men.

But what could a town be without a wedding? The first wedding in the township was that of Allen Parker and Esther Osborn, who concluded to do their part towards giving the town character and growth. They were married November 14th, 1839, in a little frame house on the corner where Lewis & Otis' Drug Store now is, on lot 138, the same building now on lot 97, Edgerton's second addition, and occupied by Mr. Wright.

Mrs. John Clemmer and I know who were at that wedding, for we were there ourselves to see. Mrs. Parker yet lives among us, but her husband, who was ever the kindest and truest of friends, a kind and indulgent husband and father, and a christian man—died in 1860, and obtained the just reward of such an old settler, a blessed rest.

Benedict said, the "world must be peopled," and this marrying and giving in marriage is the best way to do it. The Parkers and their descendants make no insignificant part of the census of Hicksville, and the example of the first marriage here has been most successfully followed. For verifying particulars, see the present school enumeration and the census of 1880, when it comes.

I wish at this point and in this connection to make a confession of an act of injustice on my part towards some very worthy people.

In 1843, I engaged a man and his wife in New York to come out here and live in my family. I made a written contract with them, one clause of which read as follows: "Said Hogan and his wife are now without children, and this agreement is upon the condition that they remain so." They had been married but a short time and this condition wasn't kept. Jimmy said, "Indeed, Hicksville was a bad place for such a bargain."

It is such a place yet, and let this confession be a warning to all against any attempts to change its character.

The years 1838-9 passed away without any important public events. There were many incidents in personal experiences deeply interesting, but to attempt to recount but the smallest part would be to make a book instead of an address. On foot or on horseback, to meeting, to mill, to trade, to weddings, and to funerals, was the

the only mode of travel. Around every home, on every piece of land improved, there was uneventful toil; yet through it, in cabin and in field, was evolved and maintained a surer independence and a better life. The clearings extended, the roads improved, the homes were made more comfortable, and as the people went to and fro knowledge of each other and of their wants was increased, and they counseled together as to the best means of further success.

Hicksville Township was organized in June 1839, and the first election was held June 22d. Its officers from then until now are matters of public record, and need not be named. The necessity for additional roads through the county was more and more apparent. The road from Maumee City to Defiance and to the Indiana line on the south side of the river was the most important and the most used. Then the roads of the Auglaize, and up Bean Creek through Evansport to the Michigan line, and the Bellefontaine road through Brunersburg, Williams Center and Denmark on the St. Joseph, were important. In 1840, a road was surveyed from Clarkesville on the St. Joseph River south to Hicksville, and from thence to the "Basin" on the Wabash and Erie Canal, where Antwerp now is. This is now the "Edgerton Road" north and the Antwerp Turnpike south. No work was done that year on this road north of Hicksville, but south to the Maumee River it was cut out thirty feet wide by contract; Abram Jackson, now a wealthy and respected farmer of Scipio, being one of the contractors.

As I have stated, the mills in Hicksville were burned Dec. 9, 1840, a great loss to the proprietors and to the whole country around, their necessity and value having been clearly proven during the time they were in operation. There was then no grist mill nearer than Brunersburg, on Bean Creek, 24 miles, and John's or Rudisill's mill, on the St. Joseph, at Fort Wayne, also 24 miles away.

That's a mistake. There was another grist mill; our friend Arrowsmith's, on Lost Creek, just above where the road bridge now is. I worked on that mill,—blew the bellows for the blacksmith to make some repairs, and played "seven-up" with the owner! It was a lowly, unpretending, funny, and yet useful mill. Had it been in Scotland it would have been immortalized by some poet. There's always poetry in the running of a mill. The flour made at it furnished bread for the country around. Like the mills of God, it ground slowly, but with exactness ground for all. Improvements came, the stones ceased to turn, and time made a ruin of it all; but the owner still lives, and the creek will flow on when he, in his

turn, has followed the old settlers who have another morn than ours.

The Hicks Company, notwithstanding their losses, determined at once on rebuilding the mills, and steps were taken to that end. New mills were built in 1841-2, at a cost of \$9542.21, and they continued to run successfully until burned Jan. 9, 1850.

In 1840, Williams County, which included Defiance, was settled, though sparsely, in all the townships; and all, with the exception of Mark Township, were organized. The county contained 774 square miles, and the number of acres of land taxable that year was 47,218, only equal to about two townships. The aggregate amount of all taxable property in the county for the year 1840 was \$292,859. In 1844 Williams County had 362,979 acres of taxable lands, and the taxable property was \$868,776. In 1839-40 Defiance continued to be the county seat, and all Williams County was compelled to go there to transact their county business. The town made no effort whatever to construct roads with its own means, but, relying upon its position on the proposed canal, indolently waited for the people of the country to come there with their tributes, to help those who wouldn't help themselves. The feeling of hostility to the town of Defiance was almost universal. It was generally known that, when the commissioners appointed under the act of June 13, 1825, to locate and establish a county seat for Williams County, they made a proposition to the proprietors of Defiance that, if they would deed to the county one-third of the town lots then laid out, and build a jail, they would locate the county seat at Defiance. That a deed was made of the lots, but that there was no account of a single dollar having ever been paid into the county treasury from the sale of them. That the record showed that there was a jail built 16 feet square, one story high, with a shake roof, which was the only jail donation, and the county paid \$1.50 for a padlock. In 1835 a new jail was built by the county at a cost of \$1,025.93.

I refer to these things, then generally known, for all these matters were fully discussed at public meetings and otherwise, to show why there was a prevailing spirit of hostility to the town of Defiance. There was within it too much of the spirit of enriching the town by too large exactions from those outside of it.

It was for these reasons that the General Assembly, on the 13th March, 1839, passed a resolution to authorize the voters of Williams County to determine whether the county seat should remain at Defiance. A vote was accordingly taken at the October election

of that year, when three-fourths of the entire vote of the county were in favor of removal. Hicksville, Farmer, Milford, Delaware and Washington were unanimously, or nearly so, in favor of it, and two-thirds of Tiffin also. Commissioners were appointed to locate the county seat of Williams County, and it was located in July, 1840, on the W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of sec. 17, Pulaski Township, then at or near the geographical center of the county, and on which the town of Bryan was laid out immediately thereafter. Miller Arrowsmith made the survey, for what could be laid out in those days unless his proverbial accuracy was in it.

You all know what Bryan now is. A large and prosperous town, filled with intelligent, energetic and honorable business men.

It is the town which, in 1845, the people of Defiance called "a spot in the wilderness surrounded by swales;" and of which they said, in their petition to the General Assembly in Dec., 1844, that "floods and famine beset the wild wet regions around Bryan, subjecting all law and order to their many contingencies." And for Defiance, all these petitioners asked was "mere legislative action—mere removal of artificial restraints and the blighting, withering influences attending the organization of these counties." They asked in addition, "That the EMBRYO GREATNESS given to Defiance by the God of nature, and the wise internal improvement policy, be no longer fettered down; that rivets be loosed, cords cut, and its GIANT QUALITIES be allowed to grow;" and, "as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray."

We all know that to be the duty of Defiance now, and we all wish they would do more of the right kind of that work. "Embryo greatness" and "giant qualities" might now be obtained by Defiance in that way, without the five mill road tax to build roads for the purpose.

But I will return to Bryan. The town was laid out on the land of the American Land Company, and I propose to say something in regard to that company, as I then represented it. This company owned a large body of land in the Western States, and city property in Chicago, and in Kalamazoo, Monroe and Berrien, in Michigan, and a large amount in Toledo, Ohio. I was agent for its lands in Williams, Defiance, Paulding and Van Wert Counties, Ohio. As many people in these counties, and all the people in that part of Bryan, on the W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of sec. 17, being all of the original town plat, and the additions of Edgerton & Tervit, are interested in the titles derived from this company, it is proper to refer to its organization, purposes, and dissolution. Five and a-half

sections of land in Hicksville Township, on which are now our finest farms, were American Land Company lands.

Benj. F. Butler, the Attorney-General of the United States under M. VanBuren's administration, (not the present B. F. Butler,) stated in a letter to me, which I now have, "that as a professional service, he drew up the Articles of Association of the American Land Company," and that he "afterwards unfortunately subscribed for some of the stocks," induced to do so because his brother was the president. I refer to this to confirm what I have said about speculations in farming lands. I will add Mr. Butler's postscript to show how great men sometimes err. "You will have heard of our success at the late charter election in this city (N. Y.), in spite of all the legislation and other efforts of the whig party. You may set down the State as safe for Mr. Van Buren." This was written April 18, 1840. Mr. Butler was unfortunate in his political judgment also. New York gave 42 electoral votes for Gen. Harrison at the next November election.

As I have said, speculation ran to real estate in 1835-6, and this company was formed by wealthy gentlemen to buy lands in the western country for the purposes of speculation. Its trustees were Charles Butler, Erastus Corning, Franklin Dexter, John B. Jones, and Edward A. Nicoll. Charles Butler was president, William E. Jones, afterwards Ogden & Jones, Chicago, secretary. Office, No. 20 Nassau Street, New York. All were men of the highest character, and of large wealth.

The lands were entered in the name of Charles Butler, and all the patents issued to him. Charles Butler and wife conveyed these lands, by warrantee deed, to the trustees, named as "joint tenants" and not as "tenants in common." All the deeds were duly recorded. Some of these lands were conveyed by the trustees direct to the purchasers, many of them were conveyed to me, and by me to the purchasers, and all after my purchase of the unsold lands were conveyed by me. The titles are perfect to all the American Land Company lands, although the patents from the general government have never been recorded.

This company, like every other company, or individual, found that farming lands could not be held in large bodies for any great length of time and money made out of them. Original cost, interest, taxes, assessments, expenses of agencies, and the length of time required to sell, were an absolute bar to all profit. The American Land Company, like the Hicks Company, and every other company found it so; and its unsold farming lands were all appraised, and

such as could be disposed of were sold at low prices, and the remainder were divided among the stockholders, and the company was dissolved. Like the Connecticut Canal Company, the stockholders mowed the tow-path and divided the hay.

When a correct account is stated of the original cost of land to include interest, taxes, assessments, expenses of agencies, and of examinations and general care, it will be found that in a few years the original cost and these charges will amount to more than could be obtained for the land, even when the first cost was low. But when a price has been offered whether exceeding all these items or not, and refused, then the holder becomes the purchaser at that price, for the money refused is the money on which he loses the interest. Money at interest, even at low rates, grows in value faster than farming lands. The power of interest to absorb everything it touches is wonderful. It will eat up in time the profits of every industry. Yet legislation is sought and obtained to make money and its uses superior to man's labor. Man's labor produces in working hours only.—Money at interest works all the time, nor stops for sickness nor storm. It is the chain which binds its victim in perpetual bondage until the uttermost farthing be paid. It is to-day eating out the industrial pursuits of the country. There is a moral in everything, and mine on this point is, that it is good for a man to sell his land at a fair price, and it is bad for a man to pay a high rate of interest.

I know as much as anyone about the location of the county seat at Bryan, and the various transfers of property there, and the ways legislative, and every other, of securing the county seat there permanently. But it is not any part of my purpose to-day to refer to Bryan except as connected with what was done in Defiance County.

Somewhat disheartened by the burning of the mills in December, 1840, I concluded to make a better paying adventure, and was therefore married February 9th, 1841, and soon thereafter introduced my wife to this land of promise. My advent was so graphically described at the time by a friend whose ability in that line will be unquestioned, that the record of our early settlement would be incomplete without it.

On the 8th March, 1841, my friend wrote me from Perrysburgh, Ohio, thus :

“Well, methinks I see you safe arrived at Hickabod's, your bride and yourself safely packed in a one-horse wagon borrowed for the occasion, with a horse between the thills. Having waited a day or two at Defiance to give your tenantry, firemen, engineers, and re-

tainers a time to make proper preparation for your reception, you approach your metropolis. A huge two-fisted woodsman has, for the want of a piece of ordnance, been selected to fall a huge tree in the neighborhood of the road, when you come in sight to give by its thundering crash as it falls a signal for the commencement of festivities. By some clumsy accident, or in the excitement of the occasion, he falls the tree across the road and you are obliged to wait a couple of hungry hours while it is cut out of the way. In the meantime the engineer of the mill has dug from the ruins of that edifice the remains of the piston rod which he has bent in the form of a triangle and suspended from a tree overhanging the road to 'make the bells ring at the village spread feast when the bride and her love return.' The horse taking umbrage at this unearthly clangor refuses to budge an inch, and with distended nostril and fiery eye threatens to take lodge in some boundless contiguity of shade. Obligated to alight in mud six inches deep you curse every thing in sight, your bride only excepted, who with traveling dress neatly tucked up prepares to make a ruin of it. In the meantime the horse has taken to the woods with the wagon at his heels, followed by 'soldiers and servants, retainers and all,' breaking up entirely the procession which was about to be formed to meet your honor and lady. Now curses the expectant landlady over turkey overdone and venison spoiled, while her meek spouse stirs his stumps to get out of the way, wishing, no doubt, for 'deserts vast and antres idle,' wherein to hide himself from the burning wrath of his t'other half, who with visage red and sleeves above her elbows menaces him from afar. But the mud is passed, and solitary and alone you approach your home. Now all the glories of Hicksville burst upon *her* vision, while in the light of her eyes, they seem to yours to be endowed with new beauties. How the tall trees seem to support the sky! Look! this is a house! That's my office; Love of a thing isn't it? That's Osborn's tavern! He's Justice of the Peace. There's the ruins of the mill soon to start like Phoenix from its ashes! Look abroad and see the beauties of nature. Are any beauties like Hicksville beauties? Thank Heaven for conceiving the idea of a Hicksville! Thank Heaven for having created an Edgerton to carry out its idea!"

Thus wrote my friend "of most excellent fancy," Henry Reed, jr., thirty-seven years ago. Now, as General Grant says about the battle of Lookout Mountain—"That's all romance—the poetry of the war."

It took two horses and hard work at that to draw a wagon from

Andy Clemmer's to Hicksville; and the turkey wasn't overdone nor the venison spoiled. And as to my swearing in those days at any six inches of mud, it is preposterous to think of. It took feet of mud to raise a common swear then, and a judicious and effective swear came out only when lower depths and miles in length were encountered. Old Count Coffinbary, who "had a daily beauty in his life," and who is now one of the kindest and most cheerful of Heaven's hosts, would whistle or sing the "Bob Tail Mare" all day long in six inches of mud.

In giving this description of Mrs. E.'s arrival in Hicksville, it recalls an adventure of an early friend in making a call upon her there a few weeks after her marriage.

Morrison R. Waite, now Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, then a young lawyer at Maumee City, was at Defiance on his way to attend court at Bryan, in April, 1841. It was Friday and court commenced on Monday. He suggested that instead of remaining at Defiance over Sunday, he would go to Hicksville and call upon the bride. The route was then through Williams Center—the distance about twenty-eight miles. We started, of course, on horseback, for that was the only way of traveling then, but before we reached Tom Dew's, on the old Bellefontaine road, a terrible rain storm, cold and dreary, came upon us, but we pushed on to Jacob Dillman's, at Williams Center, where we arrived wet to the skin. We were kindly welcomed at that ever hospitable home. Mrs. Dillman hung up a blanket before the fireplace and behind it Waite and I stripped and dried our clothes. The rain continuing we determined to remain all night. After the satisfying supper which Mrs. Dillman always provided, we went into the loft to bed, and sleep, "nature's soft nurse," soon "steeped our senses in forgetfulness."

In the morning on pulling on a stocking I discovered a hole through which my big toe thrust itself uncomfortably. I coolly pulled off the stocking, "turned it wrong side out," and put it on the same foot again. Then my agonizing perplexity of how the *undarned* hole was still filled by the *confounded* toe, struck the incipient Chief Justice, and he exclaimed, "why in the devil don't you put it on the other foot? then the little toe will be in the hole. That's what you are after." From that time forward that man has been in all things a success! and now a nation measures his ripe years by the highest judicial honors.

At Hicksville we went to a Methodist meeting held in a log cabin on lot 192, where Stull's house now stands. An old settler, well

remembered by many here, James W. Fisher, whose round, cheerful face was sunlight on the dreariest road, made the prayer, which the Chief Justice can repeat to this day; and John D. Martin preached the sermon, also remembered, especially that part which declared that "preaching in a new country was terrible hard on clothes," which was given with illustrations; and brother Martin proposed taking up a collection to get a pair of pantaloons, and he got them, and he needed them too.

I mention this visit as a proof that in the early settlement of a country no little hindrances prevented the meeting of friends, and that genuine friendship which opened the door of every home, and led a friend to find it we carry with us to the grave. It is all around me here to-day.

"A man that hath friends must show himself friendly."

During the years 1841-2-3, the whole country improved very slowly. There was very little if any surplus production, and none other than a home market for any part of it. The canal was not completed until 1843, and every settler's life was one of toil without seeming reward. His farm grew, as did his children, and his wants increased, and coon skins and deer skins had ceased to be a legal tender.

During those years I was a general trader as well as land agent. I bought corn fed pork at \$20 per ton dressed and delivered at Hicksville, and to show the fluctuations arising from local causes, I sold mast fed hogs in the woods at ten cents per pound. I sold salt for thirteen bushels of wheat per barrel, having paid \$2.50 per barrel for it at Toledo and \$4.50 per barrel transportation. And then again I sold a barrel of salt for a bushel of wheat. Labor was fifty to seventy-five cents per day, and carpenter's wages one dollar.

George Clemmer, who now hears me, an excellent carpenter and an excellent man, a resident here for forty years, knows well all the fluctuations of labor, for he always found work to do, and did it whatever the price. No man in this township has performed more honest days' work, and he is respected and rewarded for it.

The price of clearing and fencing land in readiness for the plow or drag was \$10 per acre. Cotton sheeting sold for 12c., Rio coffee 20c., sugar 12 to 16c., prints 15 to 30c., men's boots, good, \$3.50 to \$4.50, women's \$1.25 to \$1.50, nails 8 to 10c.

There was nothing to bring money into the country, and very little was in circulation, and what was used was of questionable value. Michigan "Wild Cat," and Indiana "White Dog" and

"Blue Pup," and Urbana Bank "Bull Cents," and fractional currency of every kind was in circulation.

Payments made to contractors on the canal were few and far between. For fifteen months not a dollar in money was paid to Ohio contractors, and State scrip and bank currency were depreciated when paid, and went lower afterwards.

To give Michigan Wild Cat money circulation, some person known in the locality was forced to become its endorser, and McComb County (Mich.) Bank money was frequently seen endorsed "payable at Hicksville in lumber at \$10 per M., or in flour at \$6 per barrel."

In Feb., 1841, John B. Macy and Edward Bissell, then running the Erie & Kalamazoo Bank, offered to furnish me all the currency of that bank I wanted for circulation, and to take my drafts at four months on Hicks & Co., and to apply one-third of the amount on the debt due from the Erie & Kalamazoo Railroad Company to that firm. "The old Bank of Michigan," they said, "was in a hard way, but all that the Erie & Kalamazoo Bank wanted was to be let alone," like our southern brethren, I suppose. To be let alone is all that any bank ever wanted. It is the asking a bank to pay that gives it trouble. I did not circulate any Erie & Kalamazoo money as a job; I preferred "I. & O. Smith's red ends and corn oil" money, the Bank of St. Clair, for that passed without other guarantee.

These years were uneventful, as I have said, but the toilers of the land kept on with their work, and hoped for the time when the canal would be completed, so that produce could go out and "goods" come in at cheaper rates. Merchandise, or whatever was brought into the country, came up the Maumee River in keel-boats, pirogues, or by wagons, and Fort Wayne, like other places, was thus supplied. Land sales were few, and prices were low, from \$2.50 to \$4.00 for the best farming lands, and terms of sale necessarily made easy. D. W. Deshler, of Columbus, who owned the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of sec. 9 in this township, one of the best pieces of land in it, offered it for \$2.75 per acre, one-third down, and balance in two years. I mention this, because Mr. Deshler was a large owner of land in this and adjoining counties, and his prices were general average prices.

In the five years from 1840 to 1844 inclusive, the taxables, real and personal, of Williams County, including Defiance, had increased from \$292,859 to \$868,776, the large portion of which was the addition of 315,761 acres of land to the tax duplicate in that

period, showing that the labor of the country had not to this time wrought out any great values.

After the completion of the canal in 1843, Defiance became the market town of the country, and was certainly so up to and after the years 1844-5, when the effort was made to divide Williams County. But the "embryo greatness" and "giant qualities" which the God of nature had given to the place, failed, it seemed, to make it "the great market town of the State," and to bring to it the "business of Indiana and Michigan," for it was still "*riveted* and *fettered* down," because the county seat remained at Bryan. The logic of all which was, that Defiance, left to its own energy and to what the God of nature had done for it, was powerless to grow. Though for years a market town, and the only one for the country about it, it failed to grow, and failed to see its opportunity to grow, by refusing to co-operate with the people of the country in making roads or otherwise furnishing proper facilities for the business which was compelled to go to it.

The devious ways of county seat control and expenditure were better suited to the capacity and cupidity of her speculators; therefore, in 1844, they wanted Williams County divided, for the sole purpose of making Defiance a county seat, its embryo greatness and giant qualities having failed to make it a prosperous town. Accordingly, against the will of three-fourths of the territory affected, the General Assembly passed a law, March 4, 1845, creating the county of Defiance, and establishing the county seat at that town. In April following, the commissioners and other officers were appointed.

It is unnecessary to refer to any of the processes by which this action of the General Assembly was secured. Like many other things done by a Legislature, it was not demanded by, nor in the interest of, the people. I make these references to the past, that its history may be known and understood by those not old settlers. I believed then, and still believe, that the best interests of the people were against the creation of Defiance County. No reasonable man need now be told that a county containing 774 square miles, with a county seat at the geographical center, the extremes of the county only eighteen or twenty miles distant, with county buildings without cost, was not a better county for the tax-payer and all interests therein, than two small counties, each costing as much to maintain as both continued as one county. In the light of years the old settlers fail to see what was given them for the change. The machinery, and oftentimes wrong doing of the officials, of two coun-

ties had to be worked and endured, when one only was far better and less expensive.

At this time, in both counties, as the farms improved the necessity for roads increased. The great difficulty was in getting to market. The old settlers know the depths of all the ways in getting to the canal at Defiance, and that for some reason they were not improved by any voluntary aid in money from the county seat. An effort was made at Hicksville to let that township and Milford and Farmer townships out to the canal at Antwerp. In pursuance of an act of the General Assembly, passed Jan. 15, 1845, authorizing me so to do, I constructed a road to the Maumee River (six miles) in the summer of that year, at a cost of over \$5000, and maintained a ferry across the river, and kept the road, as a toll road, in good condition for a number of years. Over this road was done not only the produce business of the townships named, but a large business from the adjoining townships in Indiana. Wheat was purchased from the farmers in the country around Auburn, Maysville, and Spencerville, and from the country about Waterloo and Butler, towns then unknown, and from other localities in Indiana, and the flour made therefrom at the mills in Hicksville was shipped by canal from Antwerp to New York.

This road is what is now the "Antwerp Turn-pike," and as my private property was transferred by me, in 1864, to the commissioners of Paulding and Defiance Counties, and accepted by them on the condition of their keeping it in as good order as any other roads in their counties. Should they fail to do so, I have no doubt I could repossess myself of the road, and hold it under the conditions of the special statute referred to.

Efforts were also made in various parts of the county, through the Free Turnpike Law, to make roads to get to and from market. People felt the tax to be severe, and soon discovered that the towns most benefited paid the least tax, and free turnpikes were therefore not a success. Brunersburgh and Hicksville tried one, but there were then no people along its line to use it, and the special tax was virtually stopped with the survey.

#### CHURCHES.

The first church edifice in Williams or Defiance Counties, of which I have any knowledge, was built by the Methodists at Williams Center—a small wooden building. My friend, Mr. Langdon, our president here, says the methodists had a log church at Defiance

before they built the one at Williams Center. I am obliged to him for correcting my statement.

Meetings of all denominations were generally held in court houses, school houses, or in private residences. The Methodist was the prevailing denomination when I came to this country. The United Brethren and the "Disciples" or "Campbellites" or "Christians" were the next. In 1840 I endeavored to have regular methodist preaching in Hicksville. I wrote to the Rev. M. Janes, then Presiding Elder, offering \$100 cash per annum towards the support of a minister to preach at Hicksville every other Sunday. He answered, April 23, 1840, that we could be supplied from the Defiance or Palaski Mission; and, therefore, the methodist church struggled along with Hicksville until 1876—thirty-six years—when it aroused itself, settled a preacher here, and a beautiful church was erected. Other denominations, the United Brethren (and they were the pioneers in church building here), the Presbyterians, Evangelical Association, and Episcopalians had preceded them with fine church edifices, and the Christians followed in 1877.

The Rev. Mr. Tucker was pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Defiance, and his congregation usually, as did other congregations in town, occupied the court house. The county commissioners refused their consent to its further occupancy for church purposes. An indignation meeting was called to denounce the commissioners. The result was, those who came to curse remained to pay for a church for Mr. Tucker, which I believe was the first church edifice in the town, (except the small log church which Mr. Langdon says was built by the methodists). The county commissioners, it seemed, aided in this effort by refusing permission to occupy county property for town purposes. Now Defiance has ten churches and Hicksville six in the village, and a fine brick church, United Brethren, at "Six Corners," in the northeast part of the township. And now in other parts of the county, and in Williams County, fine churches and school houses are to be found, proving that the people believe that "religion, morality and knowledge are necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind."

#### RAIL ROADS.

Coming along with the years, in our sketch, we reach the railroad period. To Hicksville and Brunersburgh must be given the credit of having the first railroad project in this part of the country, and if my ever cheerful and excellent friend Brice Hilton, who now

hears me, could have succeeded, by co-operation with Hicksville to that end, in his effort to get the Baltimore & Ohio Road located on the north side of the Maumee River, what forty-two years ago was an effort, then considered wild, to-day would have been a success ! A railroad from Brunersburgh to Hicksville !

In 1836 a bill was introduced into the Ohio senate by General John E. Hunt, senator, "To incorporate The Brunersburgh & Hicksville Railroad Company." William D. Haymaker, Gilman C. Mudgett, Rufus Kibber, Samuel Mapes, and Ephraim Burwell, were appointed commissioners to receive stock subscriptions. The capital was \$100,000, with liberty to increase as required. The road to run "from Brunersburgh to Hicksville, and to the Indiana line, and to be completed in five years." That project was not then more wild than many railroad projects of the present day, which have brought financial ruin to thousands, and dishonestly-acquired fortunes to others. Railroads originated and manipulated in the interests of speculators in these days are not generally profitable to the stockholders, whether individuals, counties, towns, or cities.

Brunersburgh and Hicksville were then up to Toledo, in point of time, with railroad projects.

The first railroad built west of the Allegheny Mountains, in fact, west of Utica, N. Y., was the Erie & Kalamazoo Railroad, from Toledo to Adrian. It was opened to Tecumseh, Mich., Aug. 9, 1838. This road was the commencement of railroad enterprises in the West. In 1857 the road became the property of the Michigan Southern & Northern Indiana Railroad Company, and by that company was made a part of its line to Chicago. In canals, railroads, or in any other enterprises, no more intelligent and sagacious men could be, or can be, found than in Toledo. Chicago being reached by railroad, and Monroe, Manhattan, Maumee City, and Perrysburgh having surrendered to Toledo enterprise, the business of the Wabash Valley was next to be brought to Toledo by railroad, for its further aggrandizement.

It was wise in the existing corporations to seek to secure this route, and the Michigan Southern & Northern Indiana Road being in successful operation, began their examinations, and to make efforts to construct the road in their interest.

The Air Line Road was projected by these companies for the purpose of a shorter line to Chicago, which, in addition, was to be a common line for a Wabash route from the point of junction to Toledo ; virtually, or really, the Eel River route, and to which,

with that purpose in view, they lent their aid. The old "Junction Railroad Company" had a charter to construct a road to the Indiana State Line, and at this time, 1851-2, was seeking a connection with some Indiana company. The north side of the Maumee River to Fort Wayne, either through Bryan and Hicksville, or direct, was their route. The Eel River route, from Logansport, left out the important Wabash towns of Peru, Wabash, Lagro, and Huntington, and the City of Fort Wayne on the Maumee, and, of course, was strongly opposed by every interest in these towns. The Junction Road sought their co-operation, to strengthen itself against the Eel River and the Michigan Southern & Northern Indiana Road.

This company (the Michigan Southern & Northern Indiana Railroad) could at that time have possessed itself of the Wabash Valley Road by building a road from Toledo to Bryan (53 miles), and to and from Hicksville to Fort Wayne (38 miles), making a route three miles shorter than the present Wabash Line : and at the same time could have secured the Fort Wayne & Chicago Road.

The Fort Wayne & Chicago Company was formed to build a road from Fort Wayne to Chicago as an extension of the Ohio & Pennsylvania and Ohio & Indiana Roads from Pittsburgh, and was then begging for an ownership powerful enough to construct it. The Michigan Southern & Northern Indiana Company then possessed the means and credit to become its owners, and thereby to own a route from Toledo to Fort Wayne, 91 miles, and from Fort Wayne to Chicago, 148 miles, together 239 miles, nearly as short a line as the present Air Line Road. Then it would have owned the eastern terminus to Toledo of a Wabash & Chicago road as a common line, and its western end as the extension of the Pennsylvania roads.

The Junction Company was really in favor of the route through Bryan and Hicksville. The other road hesitated as to the Fort Wayne route, and the Junction Company being of itself unable to construct a road on either route, made a conditional sale of its charter to some parties in New York, Mr. Azariah Boody being of the number. The Junction charter being thus controlled or out of the way, "The Toledo and Illinois Rail Road Company" was formed April 20, 1853, under the general laws of Ohio, the incorporators being Elias B. Holmes, Joel Rathburn, Azariah Boody, Edward Whitehouse, J. C. Colton, Matthew Johnson, Warren Colburn, William Baker, and John R. Osborn. From this organization in its subsequent varied forms grew the present Wabash Val-

ley Railroad. Fort Wayne and Defiance as well as Toledo, were of course in favor of this route, and their influence was more powerful than its opponents. I have the declaration, however, of its President, that the location of the road where it now is, was a mistake; and I also know that the managers of the Air Line Road were convinced of their mistake also. The town of Defiance manifested its interest in the construction of some railroad through the county, in asking the legislature, Feb. 11, 1851, to pass a law authorizing the County Commissioners to subscribe to the capital stock of any railroad \$100,000, and to issue bonds therefor, to be sold within or without the State at such prices as might be deemed for the interests of the county; but if they were sold at a discount the sales were to be as valid as if such bonds were sold at par. The petition, with the usual adroitness of Defiance, made no reference to the part of the county through which the road should pass, but the bill as reported made the subscription conditional upon making Defiance a point, thus saying to the Junction Company or to any other company, come to Defiance or you get no \$100,000 from Defiance County. If there was ever a town born hungry for somebody's money outside of it, that town was, and is Defiance. But that \$100,000 mortgage was not put upon the people of the county to feed it.

No one now believes that the construction of the Air Line Road through Bryan and its connection with the old line at Elkhart, was the only purpose of the Michigan Southern Road. The Wabash Valley was one, and the most important objective point, but N. I. & M. S. Road failed to reach it because the Wabash towns above Logansport with Fort Wayne controlled the Indiana interests in their favor, and the Boody interest, thus strengthened, became too active and powerful a competitor for this Wabash Valley route.

All that was left for the Michigan Southern & N. I. road to do was to prevent the Wabash road to Fort Wayne and the Pittsburgh road to Chicago from becoming a Chicago route from Toledo, by refusing to permit the occupancy of any part of the middle ground at Toledo by the Wabash Company unless such a contract was made, and it was done. The Air Line through Bryan, though not profitable as a railroad movement, was of immense value to the country through which it passed. The road cost the counties nothing, although individuals donated largely rights of way or secured them for the Company at low prices.

These general statements are sufficient to show the interests and

the ways which built the Air Line and the Wabash roads, so important to our part of the country.

The construction of these roads, the Air Line at Edgerton eleven miles distant on the north, and the Wabash road at Antwerp seven miles on the south, seemed to preclude the possibility of our ever having a railroad at Hicksville. I concluded, therefore, that I wanted some other field of operations, and in 1857 moved to Fort Wayne, my present residence, selling as rapidly as possible my interest in Hicksville, fortunately not all of it. It is unnecessary to go into any details in reference to the building of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad through this place. All settlers, old and young, know the facts, and their obligations to this company for the great good it has done us. We are now on the line of one of the great trunk lines of road from the east to the west, and if any one questions the advantages to us let him go to the company elevators here and see the long line of farmers' wagons from which thousands of bushels of grain are daily unloaded. This road runs the entire length of Defiance County, east and west, and there is no bonded debt upon us for its construction.

Hicksville, Milford, Farmer, and Mark Townships are not at the hungry end of the county, and accept the advantages which naturally flow to them and such as their enterprise can secure without asking for any five mills road tax to be expended elsewhere than in the townships where raised.

It is well known that in all sales of land on credit I have been lenient to the purchasers. I lived with them, went in and out before them, and knew all their trials and difficulties. I have seen the mother at her cabin home, when all without was dreary and all within was pain, wearied with watching her sick husband and her children, yet striving to do her husband's work that something might be raised for their support; and I have heard her prayers for courage and strength in her affliction, and I have seen the faces of those she loved baptized with her tears; and will any man tell me that it would have been right, although the law did permit it, to take from these settlers the home they were striving to save because they could not promptly pay for it? Yet such things have been done, and while the grave now covers the victims of such injustice, the oppressors live and rejoice in their wealth. Is the reward and the punishment here, or hereafter, for such as these? Many acts of kindness and forbearance I know will be forgotten, but the consciousness of having saved to a man his home will abide with me to the end. After that—no matter.

During the time of my agencies, before I became the purchaser of the unsold lands, my principals were honorable and liberal men who scorned injustice in all its forms, and gave me a large discretion in the matter of credits. Twenty-seven years ago, June 11, 1851, in answer to an enquiry as to some very long standing credits, I said to them, "That it was no easy matter to come out here into a wilderness country during its first settlement, and not daily see cases where a little credit and a little forbearance would not relieve absolute suffering. An entire withdrawal of any relief, by refusing credit, or by exacting prompt payment, would have prevented the settlement of the country for years. I know of cases where if I had refused credit or enforced collections, I would have entirely ruined men who are now thriving citizens, have paid their debts, own their farms, and have often commended you for your liberality and kindness."

My opinion of Mr. Henry W. Hicks, the original proprietor here, stands expressed on my ledger on closing his account after his death in 1867. It is in these words:

"Henry W. Hicks died September 24th, 1867. After thirty-one years of business connection, unmarred by an unkind word, I close this account with the declaration, that Henry W. Hicks was an honest man and a kind friend, to whom I am greatly indebted for my business success. I open on this page an account with his wife, his sole devisee and executrix, Annette W. W. Hicks."

When this was written, eleven years ago, I had no thought it would ever be given to the public. But it seems proper that I should now speak of a man through whom came the title to so many beautiful homes and productive farms, and of whom I can say that he oppressed no man but was kind to all.

I could take up your time for days if I were to give anecdotes of persons and tell of incidents, serious and amusing, which forty-one years of life in this country have produced, and which I have carefully kept. But, as I said in the beginning, a book, not an address, would alone answer for that purpose.

An incident of the Bench and the Bar I will relate, however, because it touches the things of to-day. In 1851 a murder was committed in Putnam County by a man named Busick, I think. He escaped, was retaken in this county, and returned to Putnam County. His counsel obtained a change of venue to Defiance County. In those days the canal packets ran, and, as was the custom of the county, the best of something to drink was usually forwarded by packet express, in five gallon demijohns, in wooden "dog houses,"

so called. I had a "dog house" on its way to my home, then at Hicksville. At Defiance, the judge, prosecuting attorney, and prisoner's counsel were in attendance at court. John A. Corwin, afterwards a judge of the Supreme Court of the State, an able lawyer and a genial gentleman, was one of the prisoner's counsel. He and J. D. Phillips, of Dayton, "Dick" Phillips, and John C. Spink (whose unfortunate lameness seemed to intensify his legal ability and integrity, as it certainly did his wit and humor), discovered my brandy in transitu. It was taken from the packet to the hotel, and around it sat court and counsel; and under its influence, as Corwin said, it was agreed to accept a plea of manslaughter.

"How could any one," he said, "with such a fluid passing down his throat, think of stopping up that of another by hanging him?"

As I then believed, and as I now believe, in "hanging," I wrote to Corwin in answer, protesting against the use of my fluids in that way. July 18, 1851, (and how a man's belief will keep,) I wrote:

"If the gallows was ever robbed of a proper subject, or the devil defrauded of his own, by the uncertainty of the law, it was when, with my cogniac, Mercy tempted Justice to unwise forgiveness. To hang, or not to hang! That's the question. I say hang all those who do not favor the gallows—that ancient and necessary mode of sending many to an eternal rest in heaven, who, without its aid, would have scorched in hell.

"Murder is indeed 'one of the fine arts,' and the poor wretch who never felt the world's regard must commit murder to find a friend on earth or a home in heaven. The gallows has become better than the pulpit, for all its subjects are sent direct to a blissful rest, while from the pulpit no such direct tickets are ever issued. Cold-handed religion, with a face solemn as a tombstone, fails to discover the murderer's merits until he is ready for the gallows, and then weak-minded women and foolish priests find in him a martyr to the law and a candidate for heaven."

Such was my opinion twenty-seven years ago, and I hold it still. The notoriety given to murder in trials and executions, produces murderers.

#### INDIANS.

Much has been said by the later settlers here about the Indian occupancy of this part of the country, and as to the time of their leaving it.

The Indian title to this part of the country, except as to a few reservations, was extinguished by the Greenville Treaty made by

General Wayne, August 3, 1795. It is believed that none of the Indian tribes resident in the State of Ohio were native Indian tribes. Their tradition was that their tribal nativity was in the east. Remnants of the tribes of Wyandots, Shawnees, and Ottawas were in northwestern Ohio up to 1839-40. The Miamis and Pottawattomies of Indiana, were frequently over here temporarily during the hunting season, but had no fixed camps among us. No Indians have been seen here since 1840. The Wyandots were the last tribe to leave Ohio. They left in 1843. I have a letter to me from a half breed, mailed at Black Snake Hills, Mo., Sept. 16, 1843, in which he says: "The Wyandotts reached Westport on the 29th July. When I was down there they had not yet selected their tract. Their claim still floated with the idle winds that seemed to moan for their sad fate over the wide prairies of this Missouri country. I believe they intend to procure lands near Westport of the Delawares or the Shawnees to settle on, apart from their own. There has been a great deal of sickness among them, six or seven died since they left Sandusky. One young man fell overboard and was drowned at Cincinnati on the way here. It is truly sorrowful, wonderful, to look back eastward from here and contemplate the gradual progress of the Indian race towards the setting sun before the march of civilization. From the east to the west it seems their destiny to go, and on they go to the Pacific until another civilization shall drive them back and they be forever lost except to tradition and history." No California with its mines of wealth was then known, but this Indian saw in the "march of civilization" the fate of his race.

And now my friends I have kept you here a long time. You may think it useless to have said so little when so much more remains unsaid. As I said at first it is hard to know just what to say at such a time as this. My feeling and judgment told me that such accounts as I have given were just now needed, and that they would be acceptable to the people; and that if statements of like character were made from time to time concerning other townships a large fund of information would be obtained, and if preserved, would make an interesting and valuable history of these counties. It is in the power of every man to preserve and furnish local information of much value, and it is their duty to do so, for from local sources only can correct local information be obtained. Therefore let each man and woman resolve that they will keep some record of something they know, and when they hear that some man is going to make a speech at an old settler's meeting, give him the record, if

they do not want to make a speech themselves, and he will give them credit for it, and thus all their friends and the country will be wiser and better for their effort. I urge upon all this duty. Then a correct account of the settlement of every township, and of all the interesting events and incidents within it, can be secured, and future annual meetings of old settlers, and young settlers, will be of great interest and value.

There is not a farm nor a home anywhere around us but has its History, and if we would have it or have our posterity possess it, some one must work to obtain and preserve it. Every fallen tree, and fence, and field, is full of it. They tell of man's labor and trials. It can be found on every floor and around every room in every home. Birth and marriage and death make a part of it. Every itinerant preacher who, in hope and prayer, over foot and bridle paths, has searched out his people, can tell it to you. Every doctor has found it on dreary roads and in the darkest nights, and in the homes where fevers and agues had prostrated alike the strong man and the feeble child. Every cross-road school house and every church contains it. Every trade and trader has some of it. It is found in our men on battle fields, in lowly graves, and in places of trust and honor. In shadow or sunshine it has passed every door. As we have made it, and are daily making it, why should we not keep it? Words unwritten tell no story to the future. Therefore I say again, let every one keep some written record of something they know.

I did not propose to speak to you of things as they now are, for you can see and judge of them for yourselves, but of things as they once were, that the changes might be noted, and the lessons taught enter into your hearts, to become a part of your lives.

We cannot tell who of us old settlers will meet here again. We are sure that all here now will never meet again anywhere on earth.

So let us now, old settlers and young settlers, bury all of wrong we know of each other, and remember only the good; and if we find one whose path is dark and dreary, stand not in the way of the sunlight he needs—for the Giver of all Good will bless the man who never wrongs but always helps his fellow man









